



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

May 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

This month we will begin a sabbatical time. The word sabbatical shares the same roots as the Biblical word Sabbath, meaning to rest; to cease.

Sabbath is holy time set aside for physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental renewal. The practice of Sabbath is our answer to God's command once a week to take a break from the daily grind.

Likewise, a sabbatical is simply an extended Sabbath, providing an opportunity to step off the treadmill for renewal of vision and hope, nourishing the soul and rebuilding the body. A Sabbatical is time to disengage from our everyday lives in order to rest, travel, study, reflect, pray, worship, and renew relationships. It is far more than a vacation, it is a season of spiritual growth for everyone involved.

I am very thankful for this time of Sabbath rest and renewal in my ministry. The death of my nephew Laughlin in 2014 took far more out of me than I realized, and I find myself weary and longing for time to spend alone with God.

I will be on sabbatical leave May 8 through

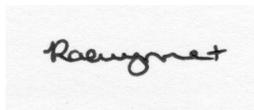
June 27. Last month, I decided that the focus of my time away would be "Growing in God: Creation and Re-creation". In a serendipitous move, the evening book group decided to spend the next couple of months reading and discussing a book called *An Unhurried Life*, which would be a good alternative name for what my sabbatical entails. I will spend most of my time in Connecticut, digging the soil and planting and weeding and watching things grow. One of the things about working the ground is that the earth has its own schedule, which you can neither slow down nor speed up (except with chemicals, which I choose not to use). I also plan to do some writing, and will end up with a conference on congregational development on the west coast. In keeping with the theme of an unhurried life, I plan to take the train across the country, stopping for a couple of days in North Dakota to visit St. James Episcopal Church in Cannon Ball on the edge of the Standing Rock reservation – you may remember that some years ago we sent money to help rebuild this church after it was destroyed by fire.

While I am away, the Rev. David Gable will be with the parish most Sundays, with a couple of other clergy the weeks he has prior commitments. Pastoral care will be coordinated by the church office and wardens, with the assistance of David, along

with clergy from nearby parishes. And, of course, our congregation will be well taken care of by our wardens, Alex Rich and Jennifer Lawrence, and our vestry.

I encourage you to think about how you might use this time for your own spiritual growth. I look forward to returning to you in the summer, refreshed and renewed.

Blessings,



NEW BOOK

This week, we began a new book study. The group chose a book called *An Unhurried Life: Following Jesus' Rhythms of Work and Rest* by Alan Fadling. In our first meeting yesterday, there was an incredible sense of peace and calm in the room. Simply choosing to take that time released us from the frenetic busyness that often consumes us.

Do join us. We meet Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Webster Room. Copies are still available at the back of the church or from the office (\$12.00 each).

- Raewynne

THE WARDENS' COLUMN

We have withstood the snow and ice of March and the showers and gray skies of April. Now we await the true arrival of spring with some sunshine and warmth. This month also offers the kickoff for “**Sustaining St. James**” fundraising. The initial “silent” phase of the funding program, which encompassed approaching past donors, friends, and loyal acquaintances, has already raised substantial monies on which to build toward the replacement of the church roof and essential repairs to the C.E. Building and the Administrative Offices. As we have reported throughout the past year, the church roof, while an expensive project, is pretty straightforward. The repairs and renovations to the C.E. Building and most especially, the Administrative Building have required the aid of an architect, and we await the second, more detailed, renderings within weeks. The façade, windows, and leaking flat roof (with changes to the roof line) are addressed in these drawings, and when the plans are in we will distribute them to all our parishioners.

We plan to send a parish-wide mailing the first week of this month. Included with a letter will be a tri-fold brochure beautifully designed, executed, and printed by Jack Schultheis and his advertising firm. All the services (including printing) were provided by Jack and were donated pro-bono to St. James Episcopal Church. They are gratefully received as a gracious and generous gift to us all. We are eager for your feedback on the brochure and all aspects of the three phases of “Sustaining St. James.” This “in house” mailing will be followed up at a later date with a mailing to our larger community, friends, and neighbors.

This is an exciting moment in our church history as we attempt to prepare for the

future “**Mission and Purpose**” of our church in the decades ahead. It also encompasses some trepidation as we face an uncertain world fraught with concerns large and small, national and personal. We are praying for God’s guidance, His grace and light as we discern our roles as Christians and parishioners and friends of St. James Church. Nothing worth gaining is done without struggle and sacrifice and true faith. We are personally thrilled to begin on this path to our future and hope that our congregation is as well.

Please pray that we find within us
*“...an enquiring and discerning heart,
 the courage to will and persevere,
 the spirit to know and to love Him
 and the gift of joy and wonder in all His
 works”*
 (inscription from Bishop Dorsey McConnell,
 Pittsburgh, 1978 Book of Common Prayer
 10/12/78)

- Alex & Jennifer



**CONFIRMATION
 MAY 6**

Thomas Mauro and Julia White will be Confirmed on Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Parishioners are encouraged to attend and support these young people as they take this important step in their faith journey and to keep them in prayers on May 6.

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
 SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 10TH**

St. James’ annual Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. This year will again see some changes in tables and locations, and will have a rain date of Sunday, June 11 from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This is our biggest fundraiser, and an opportunity for **all** parishioners to get involved in one way or another to help make it a successful event. Here are some ways in which you can contribute:

Baked Goods table - Do you like to bake? We need donations of cookies, breads, muffins, simple cakes, bars, and pies. Gluten-free and sugar-free items are also welcome. Please make sure to label your items, especially if they include nuts. You may bring your donations on the morning of the Festival. Co-Chairs: Colette Tarantino and Wylie Hunt

Books & Things: This is a combination of our Book Nook and Grandma’s Attic. Donations of dishes, glassware, household items, decorative items, books and CDs are needed. Items should be clean and in good condition. Please, no magazines or VCR tapes. Chair: Jennifer Lawrence.

Crafts table - Are you creative? Please consider making an item or two for the Crafts table. Whether you work in fiber, wood, beads, clay, or whatever, your creations will be welcomed. Donations can be brought to the office prior to festival day. Co-Chairs: Pat Kregler and Linda Misa.

Gold Elephant Treasures: This is a high end version of the yard sale, with china, glassware, linens, lightly used gift items, and “antiques”. Co-Chairs: Joan Mercep, Joan Bengtson and Barbara Bastin.

Grandpa's Garage: If you are cleaning out your workshop, garage, or shed, we are looking for donations of tools, sports equipment, furniture, garden tools, and working electronic equipment. Chair: Bob Moleti.

Jam table - Do you enjoy cooking? Jam making sessions are scheduled during the week in Mills Hall. Watch the Sunday bulletin for upcoming dates. No experience is necessary. Donations of 8 oz. jam jars or bags of sugar are always appreciated. Co-Chairs: Louise Harders & Laurie Mannix.

Jewelry Table: Do you have jewelry that you no longer wear? Someone else would probably love it. Donations can be dropped off in the office. Co-Chairs: Debbie Sepulveda and Ellen Harte.

Plant table - If you are dividing perennials this spring, or thinning seeds, think about potting up a few for this table. Please label the plant as to variety and light requirements. Plants can be brought on the morning of the Festival. Co-Chairs: Tony DeVito & Ruth Ward

Strawberries for Sale - Help will be needed to hull strawberries right before the Festival and to staff the table on the day of the Festival, selling berries and ice cream. Co-Chairs: Kelly Lally & Lil Moleti

Lunch: Karen Noack will once again be in charge of our grill. Speak to her if you would like to help out.

Set-up and Clean-up: As always, help will be needed on the day of the Festival to set up tables and tote "stuff" in the early morning and to break down and clean up at the end of the day. If you have a couple of hours to spare here, that would help immensely.

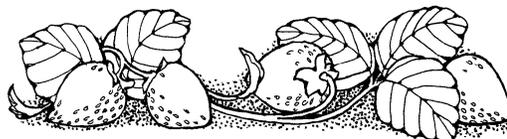
If you are new to the parish, or even if you have been here for awhile, becoming involved in one of our events is a great way to meet other members of the parish. Even if you can't spend the whole day, volunteering for a couple of hours either before or during the Festival can help you to get to know some of the other members of our parish family. Don't be shy, it's really a lot of fun!

DONATIONS OF ITEMS FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

If you have items to donate for Books & Things, or Grandpa's Garage, they will be accepted after May 15th. The best way is to bring your items on Sunday to Mills Hall. Otherwise, you can call the office to set an appointment to drop them off during the week.

Large items (desks, tables and other furniture or equipment) can be brought to Mills Hall starting June 6th. If anyone is able to get a storage POD donated for a few weeks, please contact me at 631-584-6628 or pkings20@optonline.net.

- Pat Westlake



GREETERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We would like to expand the number of greeters, especially with the summer vacation months upon us. A pleasant welcome is so meaningful to newcomers in our midst and our parish has always been known for its hospitality.

Greeting is not time consuming, and all that is expected is to ask a newcomer to fill out a card (if not just visiting) and to get an escort to bring either a newcomer or visitor to coffee hour. Only ten minutes, usually, is all that is required once every few months.

If you are willing to help, please contact me at 631-675-0385. Coordinating with Altar Guild, ushers, coffee hour, and LEM lists is done to avoid a conflicting date if you are serving in other capacities.

Thanks so much for your interest. I hope you can serve some Sunday in the future.

- Lil Moleti

GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Our Good Friday Blood Drive was a wonderful success this year, resulting in 9 more pints of blood than last year. Much of this success was a result of those who donated on the ALYX equipment, resulting in 2 units of red packed cells from one donation.

A great thank-you to Polly Neyssen and Joan Mercep, who raised parishioners' awareness via phone calls and emails.

- Edna Rousseau

LUNCH BUNCH

The next meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be held at the Port Jefferson Lobster House, 1 North Country Road, Port Jefferson, on Tuesday, May 30 at 12:30 p.m. All parishioners are invited to join in the fellowship and fun. Contact Fjeril Deal at 631-724-3720 to make your reservation.

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Rector at Soul Brew Café 10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon
Sustaining St. James meeting 1:00 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Jam making 1:00 p.m.
Rector at Clergy Conference
- 4 Book study group 7:30 p.m.
Rector at Clergy Conference
- 6 Confirmation at Cathedral 11:00 a.m.
- 7 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 8 Rector's Sabbatical begins
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Book study group 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 15 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Special Connections group 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Book study 7:30 p.m.

- 21 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 22 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 25 Book study 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
- 29 **Memorial Day**
Office closed
- 30 Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

*Matt Coleman
Maria Bataller
Karen Noack
Barbara LoPresto
Cathi Hart
Kristen Dean
Thomas Mauro
Bob Moleti
Joan Strassle
Walt Kregler
David Schmidt
Sarah Harrington*

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Jack & Flo Donohue

